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Polish Ex-Diplomat Is Sentenced as Spy

Reuter

WARSAW, Feb. 13—Polish former diplomat Bogdan Walewski was sentenced to 25 years in prison today after being convicted of spying for the CIA. A military prosecutor had demanded the death penalty for the former envoy in Moscow and at Poland's U.N. mission.

The prosecutor said Walewski's activities were part of long-term anti-Polish and anti-communist operations by "imperialist" intelligence agencies.

Walewski, 48, also was sentenced to 10 years loss of civil rights and had his property confiscated, the Polish news agency PAP reported, adding that the verdict was subject to appeal. Polish radio said Walewski was accused of giving the CIA information on social, political and economic problems in Poland and other Soviet Bloc states.

A specialist in international relations and law, Walewski was recruited and trained by the CIA while serving with an international commission in Vietnam and later while studying at Columbia University in New York, the radio said.

The Communist Party Central Committee's newspaper, Trybuna Ludu, said Walewski admitted to charges of treason at the start of his trial on Tuesday, saying he first became involved in spying for the adventure and then later for material advantage.

PAP said he was paid the equivalent of \$84,000 for his spying.

The prosecution had demanded the death penalty, but the defense asked for a prison term, maintaining that the information Walewski had passed on to the CIA was of no great importance and had not resulted in any damage to Poland.